

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Social Services

Bryce Yokomizo
Director

October 15, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVAL OF CONTRACT BETWEEN LOS ANGELES COUNTY
AND THE UNITED COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK (UCAN)
FOR THE LONG-TERM FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY
COMMUNITY-BASED TEEN SERVICES PROGRAM IN THE
ANTELOPE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREA ONLY
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5 - 3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve and instruct the Chairman to sign the enclosed contract between Los Angeles County and the United Community Action Network (UCAN) for the Long-Term Family Self-Sufficiency Community-Based Teen Services Program in the Antelope Valley High School Attendance Area. The term of the contract will be commencing one day following Board approval and terminating June 30, 2003, at a maximum cost of \$422,000 through the use of CalWORKs Performance Incentive funds approved by your Board for this purpose on June 26, 2002.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Public Social Services to prepare and execute any necessary contract amendments not to exceed 10% of the total contract amount. The approval of County Counsel and the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) will be obtained prior to executing such amendments, and the Director will notify the CAO in writing within fifteen business days after execution.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On November 16, 1999, your Board approved the Long-Term Family Self-Sufficiency (LTFSS) Plan which included 46 projects to help CalWORKs participants, and in some instances, low-income families not receiving CalWORKs achieve long-term family self-sufficiency.

The Community-Based Teen Services Program is Project #17 in the plan. The Implementation Plan for the project, which was approved by your Board on April 25, 2000, informed the Board that a Request for Proposals (RFP) would be issued to solicit services providers in each of the 36 High School Attendance Areas where the program will be implemented. The Antelope Valley is one of the 36 areas. As a result of the first RFP released September 15, 2000, one proposal was received and recommended for contract award in the Antelope Valley High School Attendance Area. During contract negotiations, the proposer decided not to contract with Los Angeles County. County Counsel advised the Department to release a second RFP for the Antelope Valley High School Attendance Area to solicit service providers. On April 1, 2002, an RFP was released for this area only. Two proposals were received and based on the evaluation process, one contract is being recommended for award.

Historically, teens are the one segment of the welfare population that has been ignored in terms of providing services to help them succeed and escape the cycle of poverty. Beyond the welfare system itself, there is a lack of coordination among efforts to help youths prepare for a future as self-sufficient adults. All teens who reside or attend school in the Antelope Valley High School Attendance Area are eligible to receive services.

The Community Needs Assessment facilitated by the Los Angeles County Office of Education in 2000, identified the gap between the needs of teens in the Antelope Valley community and the resources currently available to address those needs. The results of the needs assessment provided a summary of the needs which was incorporated in the Request for Proposals.

The contract will serve middle school students, high school students, and out-of-school youth. The proposal includes an outreach strategy to involve eligible youth in the program. In addition, though the program will not focus exclusively on CalWORKs teens, CalWORKs staff working with families in the target area will seek to refer CalWORKs teens to participate in the program.

The services that will be provided through the contract are: 1) tutoring, 2) sex education, 3) homework assistance, 4) counseling, 5) life skills, 6) job placement, and 7) recreation.

On June 26, 2002, your Board allocated \$17.4 million in CalWORKs Performance Incentives for FY 2002-03 for the Long-Term Family Self-Sufficiency Community-Based Teen Services Program. The Antelope Valley High School Attendance Area is one of the 36 High School Attendance Areas where the program is implemented.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The contract is consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal #5: Children and Families' Well-Being, to improve the well-being of children and families in the County of Los Angeles as measured by the achievements of the five (5) outcome areas adopted by the Board. The services offered by the contract will address the outcome areas that are specific to teens and that were developed to address the identified unmet needs to assist them in becoming self-sufficient adults.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The maximum contract amount for the Community-Based Teen Services Program in the Antelope Valley High School Attendance Area is \$422,000 and will be funded exclusively with CalWORKs Performance Incentives funds. Therefore, there is no net County cost impact.

FACTS AND PROVISIONAL/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Performance Incentives funding may be used in any manner authorized by federal law:

- 1) In any manner reasonably calculated to meet one of the four purposes of the Federal TANF program; or
- 2) To continue providing services and benefits that the State was authorized to provide under its former title IV - A or IV - F State plans (which covered Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), emergency Assistance (EA), and Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training (JOBS).

The four (4) purposes of the federal TANF program are to:

1. Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
2. End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

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The Federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) concluded that special initiatives that keep teens in school are reasonably related to the third purpose of TANF - to reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies - since teens who remain in school are less likely to become pregnant or father a child. This clarification broadens the usage of TANF dollars as it pertains to teens so that Performance Incentives funds are not restricted to funding services to CalWORKs teens.

The contractor is in compliance with the County's Jury Service Program.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

DPSS issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit service providers to address the identified unmet needs in the Antelope Valley High School Attendance Area (HSAA). There were two proposals received by the deadline. Following the evaluation of the proposals, one proposal is being recommended for contract award.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES


The contract will bring together community-based organizations, the school district and County departments to leverage existing resources and services by providing services that meet the identified unmet needs of teens in the Antelope Valley High School Attendance Area.

The goal of this collaboration is to achieve service integration between community-based organizations who have a history of providing services to teens and public agencies that will assist teens in becoming productive adults and help break the cycle of dependence on government assistance.

CONCLUSION

Upon Board approval, the Executive Office, Board of Supervisors, is requested to return one (1) adopted stamped Board Letter and one (1) original-signed copy of the contract to DPSS.

Respectfully submitted,


Bryce Yokomizo
Director

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors